

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-22, and 24-28 and 30-43 are pending and are ready for further action on the merits.

Claims 29 and 44-77 have been canceled.

Claim 30 has been amended to be recite the subject matter of claim 29 and to be in independent form.

Claims 31-33 have been amended so as not to depend from claim 29.

The specification has been amended at page 5 to delete the reference to an incorrect Japanese patent number. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 29 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morimoto et al., US 5,260,384.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 29, as appearing in the August 27, 2004 Amendment is patentable over Morimoto et al.; however, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claim 29, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants note with appreciation from the November 23, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 3-22, 24-28 and 31-43 are free from the prior art.

With the above remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$450.00 is attached hereto.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, **Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq.** (Reg. No. 43,575), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17;
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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